

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /068 W
----- 123273

R 132225Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6776
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 10438

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MX
SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW STATUTORY CONDITION OF
ELIGIBILITY FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

REF: STATE 196640

1. ALTHOUGH THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SINCE THE EARLY 1950'S, THERE HAS BEEN NO FORMAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO AND THE DEFENSE ATTACHE ADVISES AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH ONE AT THIS TIME. FOR INTERNA
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POLITICAL REASONS AND TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE U.S., MEXICO HAS TRADITIONALLY SHUNNED OPEN BILATERAL AID. THE SUBJEC
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OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS NOT OPENLY DISCUSSED BY MOST MEXICAN OFFI-
CIALS. IN 1971 DECLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM FIGURES BY THE U.S. GOVERN
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MENT AND THE 1972 IMPOSITION OF THE TEN PERCENT DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT CAUSED THE MEXICAN SECDEF(ARMY/AIR FORCE) TO WITHDRAW FROM THE FY 73 MAP. THE NAME CHANGE IN THE TITLE OF THE PROGRAM TO "INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM" GAVE THE MEXICAN SECDEF THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVERSE HIS POSITION. ATTEMPTING TO FORCE AN AGREEMENT WHERE NONE IS NECESSARY WOULD RESULT IN MEXICO'S SECDEF AGAIN WITHDRAWING FROM THE PROGRAM. THIS WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS
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NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE MEXICAN MILITARY.

2. IF MEXICAN MILITARY/GOVERNMENT FEELS WE ARE SUPPLYING NEW RULES, THERE COULD BE SOME POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON U.S.- MEXICAN MILITARY OPERATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF DRUGS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE.

3. GRANT TRAINING IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS WE PRESENTLY HAVE FOR MAINTAINING THE FAVORABLE ORIENTATION OF THE MEXICAN MILITARY LEADERSHIP TOWARD THE U.S., A FACTOR MADE MORE PERTINENT SINCE MILITARY OFFICERS OCCUPY A NUMBER OF KEY GOVERNMENT AND SECURITY JOBS TO INCLUDE HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICE AND PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM FROM WITHIN THE RULING PARTY. THE VALUE OF MAP IN MEXICO LIES NOT SOLELY IN THE CORRECTION OF SPECIFIC TRAINING DEFICIENCIES, OR IN AN IMPROVED CAPABILITY FOR INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL DEFENSE, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, IN THE CULTIVATION OF PROMISING YOUNG OFFICERS WHO WILL BE FUTURE LEADERS. THE EXPOSURE OF THESE OFFICERS TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO U.S. MILITARY DOCTRINE AND EXPERIENCE HAS PROMOTED IN THE PAST AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE CLOSER RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE MEXICAN MILITARY IS A STABLE ELEMENT IN THE SOCIETY AND FAVORABLY ORIENTED TO THE U.S. THIS IS IN LARGE MEASURE A RESULT OF THE LONG TRADITION OF TRAINING BASED ON THE U.S. MODEL OR ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT UNDER U.S. AUSPICES. THE MEXICAN MILITARY IS CURRENTLY THE U.S.'S BEST INSURANCE OF A SECURE BORDER WITHOUT COMMITTING U.S. ASSETS.

4. MAP IN MEXICO IS CONFINED TO GRANT TRAINING AND IS REFERRED TO BY THE GOM AS "MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS". IT IS IN NO WAY RELATED TO U.S. FURNISHED DEFENSE ARTICLES, BUT RATHER CONSISTS PURELY OF ACADEMIC TRAINING OR GENERAL TRAINING WITH WIDER APPLICATIONS, I.E., JET MECHANIC.

5. SINCE PARA 3D OF REF STATES THAT THE NEW REQUIREMENT IS NOT APPLICABLE IF THE TRAINING IS NOT RELATED TO U.S. FURNISHED DEFENSE ARTICLES, BUT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED TO AVOID DIFFICULTIES AND POSSIBLE FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDINGS...AND BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP MEXICO HAS WITH THE U.S., WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO U.S. INTERESTS TO IMPOSE AN UNNECESSARY REQUIREMENT AT THIS TIME.

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6. ACCORDINGLY, I RECOMMEND THAT THE GOM NOT BE ASKED TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO10438
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760312-1141
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760856/aaaabwij.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 196640
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW STATUTORY CONDITION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING
TAGS: MASS, MX, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006